INCIDENTAL FINDING OF UTERINE CARCINOSARCOMA IN A YOUNG WOMAN: A CASE REPORT

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ABSTRACT: Carcinosarcoma of the uterus is a rare, highly malignant tumor due to its tendency to develop early metastases. Typically this tumor comprises an epithelial and a malignant stromal component. The highest incidence is during menopause, when it manifests clinically with symptoms such as metrorrhagia, sometimes associated with pelvic pain. We report a case of uterine carcinosarcoma identified incidentally in a young woman after endometrial curettage.

CASE REPORT: We report a case of carcinosarcoma in a 32-year-old woman affected by vaginal bleeding for 5 months and treated with hormonal therapy (progestin), associated with worsening iron-deficiency anemia. The patient underwent abdominal and pelvic sonography that showed no particular findings. Diagnostic hysteroscopy was performed, which evidenced a markedly hyperplastic and occasionally polypoid mucosa, as well as signs of previous intracavitary curettage.

RESULTS: Histological examination documented a mixed proliferation of poorly differentiated, dysmorphic and dysmetric glandular structures, characterized also by squamous differentiation, along with hyperchromatic nuclei and multinucleations, as well as atypical stromal elements. Numerous atypical mitotic elements, a high proliferation index and a pseudopolipoid dysfunctional endometrium were also present.

DISCUSSION: Uterine carcinosarcoma, properly known as Mullerian tumors and/or MMMT (malignant mixed mesodermal tumors), are rare (1.5-3% of all uterine malignancies) and aggressive tumors with the highest incidence during menopause. Histologically, they are characterized by the presence of malignant epithelial and stromal cells. Usually, treatment (which varies according to the stage of the disease) comprises radical surgery followed by radio- and chemotherapy. The most important prognostic factor is staging at the time of surgery, as early staging has a 5-year survival of 50%, while survival for advanced disease is about 25%.

We report this clinical case due to the unusual age of the patient and to emphasize the diagnostic usefulness of curettage associated with hysteroscopy, in order to obtain an early diagnosis when clinical evidence is not highly indicative of neoplastic disease.

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